

NORTH HYNDMAN BRIDGE
(Baltimore & Ohio Railroad)
B&O Railroad spanning Wills Creek
Hyndman
Bedford County
Pennsylvania

HAER No. PA-358

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

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HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

NORTH HYNDMAN BRIDGE Baltimore & Ohio Railroad HAER No. PA-358

Location: B&O Railroad spanning Wills Creek, N side of Hyndman at Londonerry Township line, Hyndman, Bedford County, Pennsylvania

Date of Construction: 1916

Present Owner: CSX

Present Use: Railroad bridge

Significance: This bridge was built by the King Bridge Company of Cleveland, Ohio, one of the nation's leading nineteenth-century bridge manufacturing concerns. King Bridge was one of the few large bridge building companies to survive the merger movement of 1900-01 when the giant American Bridge Company, a subsidiary of the U.S. Steel Corporation, was formed. The B&O's bridge at Wills Creek is likely one of the last King Bridge Company spans erected in Pennsylvania.

Historian: Scott C. Brown, 1991

Project Information: The results of the study of Bedford County were published in 1994: Kim E. Wallace (ed), Bedford County and Fulton County, Pennsylvania: An Inventory of Historic Engineering and Industrial Sites (Washington, D.C.: National Park Service). The contents of the publication were transmitted to the Library of Congress as individual reports. Research notes, field photos and copies of historic photos collected during the project were transmitted to the AIHP Collection, Special Collections, Stapleton Library, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Indiana, PA 15705.

This bridge is a double-track, single-span, Pratt through truss. On the east side of the bridge is an abandoned single-track, three-span, deck-plate girder bridge with concrete abutments and piers. Its rails have been removed.

This bridge was constructed in 1916 by the King Bridge Company of Cleveland, Ohio. The King Bridge Company was founded in 1871 by Zenas King as the King Iron Bridge & Manufacturing Company. It was renamed the King Bridge Company in 1893. The company was among the few large bridge-fabricating concerns to survive this industry's merger movement of 1900-01, when the U.S. Steel subsidiary American Bridge Company was formed. After American Bridge was established in 1900, a handful of firms, such as the King Bridge Company, competed with this giant concern. The B&O Railroad's Wells Creek Bridge was built a decade and a half after the structure of the bridge building industry was significantly altered as a result of the merger movement. The bridge carries trains across Wells Creek on their way from the Allegheny summit to Cumberland and then to Baltimore. Wells Creek flows from this point south to the Potomac River just west of Cumberland.

Sources
Bridge plaque.

Darnell, Victor C. Directory of American Bridge-Building Companies: 1840-1900. Washington, D.C.: Society for Industrial Archeology, Occasional Publication No. 4, 1984.